

# FACT SHEET



## Missouri Plan to Reduce NO<sub>x</sub>

August 2000

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to approve a new regulation submitted by the state of Missouri to reduce nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions across the state. This regulation creates statewide controls of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from major sources, primarily large electric generating units. This regulation is an important part of the plans submitted by the states of Missouri and Illinois to attain the ozone (smog) standard in the St. Louis area. These plans outline actions that will help cut smog levels, making the air healthier to breathe for approximately 2.5 million people in St. Louis area.

### ACTION ON STATE RULE

EPA is proposing to approve the statewide NO<sub>x</sub> emission rule as an amendment to the Missouri State Implementation Plan (SIP), which will make this regulation Federally enforceable. This statewide NO<sub>x</sub> rule establishes controls of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from large electric generating units and establishes a NO<sub>x</sub> emissions trading program for the state of Missouri.

This regulation is a critical element in the plans submitted by Missouri and Illinois to attain the ozone (smog) standard in the St. Louis area. The two states have submitted plans to EPA showing that the St. Louis area will attain the ozone standard by 2003. The state plans include all local measures required under the Clean Air Act, and rely on statewide controls of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from major sources (primarily electric generating units).

St. Louis is classified as a moderate ozone nonattainment area. This means that St. Louis is an area where urban smog can pose health concerns for citizens. The nonattainment area includes the counties of Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair in Illinois; and Franklin, Jefferson, St. Charles, and St. Louis counties and the City of St. Louis in Missouri.

Under the Clean Air Act, states that have moderate ozone nonattainment areas must submit SIPs showing how they will achieve clean air to fulfill certain requirements of the Act. EPA's full approval of these plans submitted by Missouri and Illinois to address their air quality problems is dependent upon adoption of the regional NO<sub>x</sub> emissions control regulation.

For clarification, EPA's evaluation of the statewide NO<sub>x</sub> rule is not related to the obligations which Missouri may have later under EPA's regional NO<sub>x</sub> reduction rule (the NO<sub>x</sub> SIP call). That rule requires that certain states develop regional NO<sub>x</sub> controls to address contributions to downwind nonattainment of the ozone standard in the eastern portion of the United States. EPA intends to establish regional NO<sub>x</sub> requirements for a portion of Missouri to address contributions

by Missouri sources to ozone nonattainment in other areas. The state would then be required to revise its plan to address long-range transport.

EPA supports the diligent work of Missouri and Illinois to address their air quality problems and is committed to working closely with the states to ensure that their clean air goals are realized.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Copies of relevant documents supporting this proposal are available at the following address:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7  
Air Planning and Development Branch  
901 North Fifth Street  
Kansas City, KS 66101

For further information, contact Kim Johnson, EPA Region 7, Kansas City, KS at (913) 551-7975.